

A NEW SPECIES OF *PLATAMBUS*, SUBGENUS *AGRAPHIS*,  
FROM NEPAL AND NOTES ON *P. GUTTULUS* (RÉGIMBART)  
(COLEOPTERA, DYTISCIDAE).

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*Quaestiones Entomologicae*  
26: 239-243 1990

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Platambus*, *P. khukri*, from the Himalaya of Nepal (type locality Nepal, Bagmati, Sindhupalchok, Dapkakharka, 1800 m) is the fourth known species of the subgenus *Agraphis*. A revised key to the species of *Agraphis* is included.

The subgeneric name *Neoplatynectes Vazirani* is a synonym of *Platambus Thomson* and some additional notes about the type-series of *Platambus* (s.str.) *guttulus* (*Régimbart*) are given.

RÉSUMÉ

L'auteur décrit *P. khukri* n.sp., un nouveau *Platambus* (sous-genre *Agraphis*) récolté au Népal (Népal, Bagmati, Sindhupalchok, Dapkakahrka, 1800 m). Il s'agit de la quatrième espèce attribuée au sous-genre *Agraphis*. Une clé de détermination révisée est proposée.

Le sous-genre *Neoplatynectes Vazirani* est considéré comme synonyme du genre *Platambus* et quelques notes complémentaires sur la série typique de *P. guttulus* (*Rég.*) sont données.

INTRODUCTION

During the latest expedition (1989) of the Natural History Museum of Basel to the Himalaya of Nepal, several species of the colymbetine genus *Platambus* Thomson were collected. One of these proved to be new to science and is described here as *Platambus khukri*. The new species belongs to the subgenus *Agraphis* Guignot and is the fourth species to be assigned to this subgenus which otherwise includes *P. (A.) sawadai* (Kamiya) from Japan, *P. (A.) punctatipennis* Brancucci from China and *P. (A.) kempi Vazirani* from Darjeeling Distr., India and Sikkim (Brancucci, 1988).

Further, several type-specimens of *P. guttulus* (*Rég.*) have been found in the Paris Museum. This allows me to make some additional comments about this species.

*Platambus* Thomson

*Platambus* Thomson, 1859:14.

*Platynectes* subg. *Paraplatynectes* Vazirani, 1970:342 (type species: *Platynectes guttula*), -  
Vazirani, 1977:68. NEW SYNONYMY

Vazirani erected the subgenus *Paraplatynectes* for *Platynectes guttula* Rég. As this species has been recognized as a *Platambus* (Brancucci, 1988), the subgenus *Paraplatynectes* should be treated as consubgeneric with *Platambus*.

*Platambus (sensu stricto) guttulus* (Régimbart)

*Platynectes guttula* Régimbart, 1899:283.

*Platynectes (Paraplatynectes) guttula*; Vazirani, 1970:342. -Vazirani, 1977:68.

*Platambus guttulus*; Brancucci, 1988:205.

Since my revision (Brancucci, 1988), I have found four more specimens in the collection of the Paris Museum which are part of the type series. At the time, I was not aware of Vazirani's lectotype designation (Vazirani, 1970, 1 ♂ from Hochan) and I referred to the single specimen available to me as the holotype. The earlier designation by Vazirani should be followed. Besides the male from Chang-Hai mentioned in my revision, the lectotype and the four paralectotypes are from the following localities: Hochan (1 ♂ and 1 ♀), Shanghai (2 ♀).

*Females*.— The female is similar to male, except for lacking the broadened tarsal articles.

*Platambus (Agraphis) khukri* n.sp.

Figs 1-8.

*Description*.— Body broadly oval, completely black except labrum, anterior part of clypeus and two small postmedian rounded patches ferrugineous-brown (Fig 1).

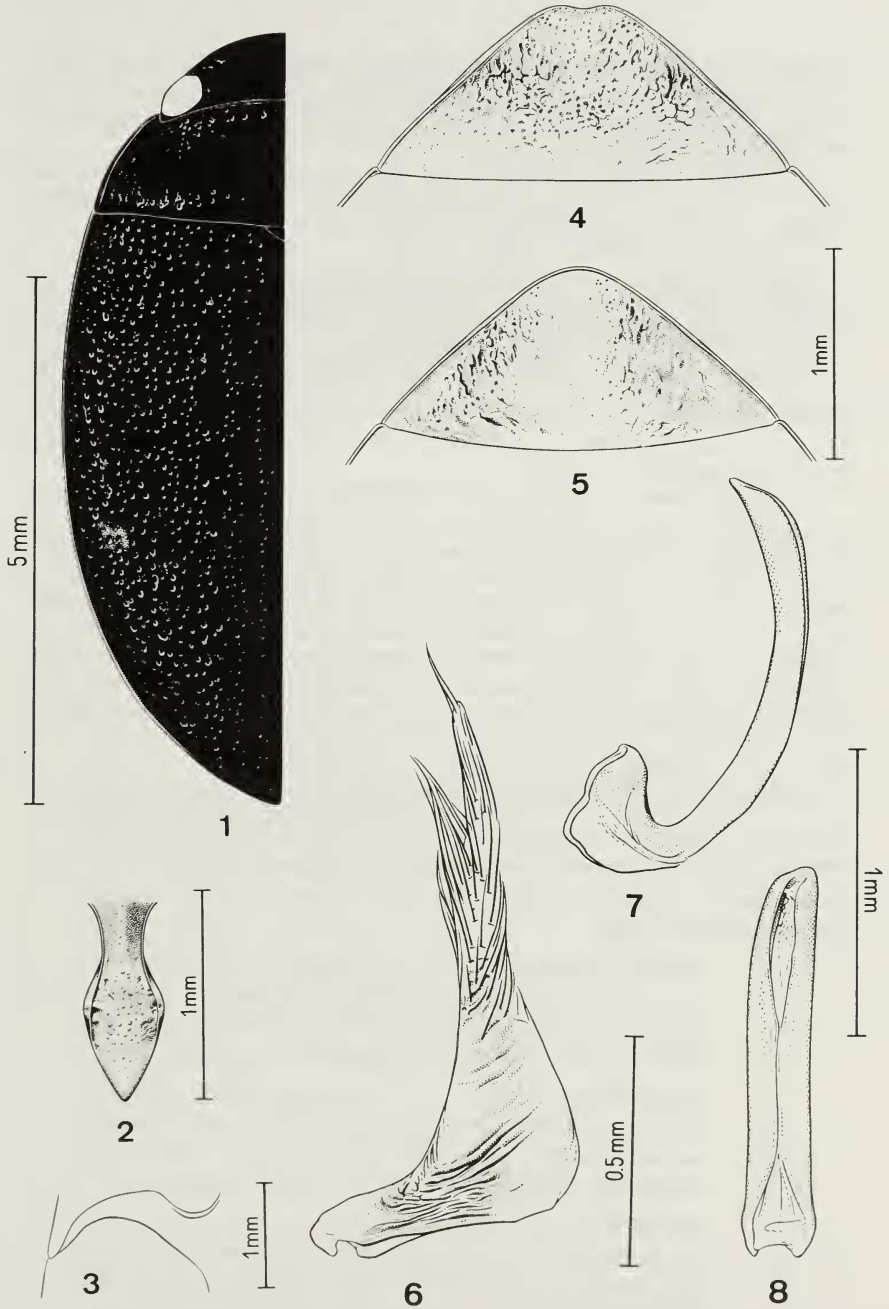
Head black, indistinctly ferrugineous-brown on labrum and on anterior part of clypeus. Antennae and palpi ferrugineous-brown. Reticulation of polygonal meshes with numerous minute punctures on inner surfaces and densely covered by larger punctures, latter particularly large and dense on disc. Row of punctures alongside eyes and two close-set punctures beside eyes deeply impressed (frontal grooves). Fronto-clypeal grooves deep, formed by confluence of several punctures.

Pronotum completely black, except lateral margins very narrowly ferrugineous-brown. Reticulation slightly-impressed; meshes with minute punctures on their inner surfaces and with numerous larger punctures at intersection of meshes, particularly large and numerous laterally. Anterior, transverse row of punctures not interrupted at middle; punctures very large, irregularly distributed, absent at level of anterior angles. Posterior, transverse row of punctures broadly interrupted at middle, limited to mediolateral portion of each side; punctures large and confluent. Lateral margin distinctly margined.

Elytron black with postmedian rounded ferrugineous-brown spot (Fig. 1). Epipleuron dark brown to black. Elytral reticulation slightly impressed, of small polygonal meshes with one to five very minute punctures on inner surfaces and with larger and sparser punctures at intersections. Entire surface irregularly covered with very large and deep punctures (Fig. 1); on disc, punctures slightly grouped along normal, serial row of punctures, sutural row of punctures complete; punctures of medium size, placed close together and in straight line, except on anterior fifth more sparse, well separated and irregularly distributed.

Underside ferrugineous-brown to dark brown. Prosternal process flat, transversely depressed on posterior half, distinctly bordered on basal part and covered with coarse punctures, particularly large and confluent at sides (Fig. 2). Metasternal wings narrow (Fig. 3). Metacoxa markedly rugose. Metatrochanter transverse. Metafemur with several short setae distally near posterior angle. Ventral surface of metatibia with about 10 large punctures on outer half.

*Males*.— Pro- and mesotarsus slightly dilated, with small pads on tarsomeres 1-3. Anal sternite very coarsely sculptured, markedly wrinkled longitudinally and with indistinct longitudinal depression, particularly distinct on posterior half. Posterior margin very slightly excavated at middle (Fig 4), margined only at sides.



Figs 1-8: *Platambus (Agraphis) khukri* n.sp.: 1, Habitus and color pattern. 2, Prosternal process. 3, Metasternal wings. 4, Anal sternite of the ♂. 5, Anal sternite of the ♀. 6, Right paramere. 7, Aedeagus in lateral view. 8, Aedeagus in dorsal view.

Parameres with basal portion slightly transverse and apical portion elongate (Fig. 6). Aedeagus, in lateral view, slightly curved, widest at subapical portion, flattened at apex and ended in short point; in dorsal view, parallel-sided almost to apex and rounded at apex (Figs 7-8).

*Females*.— Similar to males except anal sternite distinctly reticulate and covered with small punctures; posterior margin rounded apically, not excavated medially, and finely margined (Fig. 5).

*Total length*.— 7-7.3 mm; width: 4-4.2 mm.

*Types*.— Holotype ♂ (coll. Brancucci, NHM-Basel) and 7 paratypes (3 ♂ and 4 ♀; coll. Brancucci, NHM-Basel). Locality: Nepal, Bagmati, Sindhupalchok, Dapkakharka, 1800 m, 11.VI.1989, M. Brancucci.

*Derivation of specific epithet*.— The species name is derived from the Sanskrit word *खुक्रि* ('Khukri). A khukri is a long knife commonly used in Nepal. *P. khukri* n.sp. was found in a region well known for its manufacture of a particularly strong kind of khukri.

*Collecting notes*.— Specimens were collected in small pools on large stone slabs which are continuously fed with fresh water alongside the actual river bed.

*Affinities*.— Because of its size and rounded form, this species is similar to *P. (A.) kemp*i Vazirani but specimens are distinguished easily by the form of the basal portion of the parameres which is only slightly transverse (Fig. 6) and by form of aedeagus which is not markedly tapered distally in dorsal view (Fig. 8). Furthermore, the coarse punctation of the elytra is more dense and more evenly distributed (Fig. 1), the last abdominal sternite of the male is less markedly excavated (Fig. 4) and the prosternal process is distinctly more depressed (Fig. 2).

### Key to the species of the subgenus *Agraphis*

In the key to species of *Agraphis* presented in my earlier revision (Brancucci, 1988), the measurements of *P. (A.) sawadai* Kamiya and *P. (A.) kemp*i Vazirani unfortunately were transposed. Consequently I think it would be more useful to publish a complete, revised key instead of simply listing the additions and corrections.

- 1 Larger specimens (6.9-8.2) mm). Punctures on elytra varied in size, unevenly distributed, partly arranged in rows ..... 2
- 1' Smaller specimens (6.4 mm). Punctures on the elytra very dense, uniform in size and evenly distributed, not arranged in rows. China (Fukien) ..... 2. *P. (A.) punctatipennis* Brancucci
- 2 (1) Smaller specimens (6.9-7.5 mm). Elytra black with postmedian, ferruginous-brown spot. Male with aedeagus, in lateral view, broadened apically; in dorsal view, symmetrical or asymmetrical ..... 3
- 2' Larger specimens (7.9-8.2) mm. Elytra completely black. Male with aedeagus, in lateral view, tapered apically; in dorsal view asymmetrical. Japan ..... 1. *P. (A.) sawadai* (Kamiya)
- 3 (2) Males. Paramere markedly transverse basally. Aedeagus, in dorsal view, markedly tapered in apical third, symmetrical. India (Darjeeling Distr., Sikkim) ..... 3. *P. (A.) kemp*i Vazirani

- 3' Males. Paramere slightly transverse basally (Fig. 6). Aedeagus, in dorsal view, not markedly tapered in apical third, parallel-sided almost to apex, asymmetrical (Fig. 8). Nepal (Bagmati).  
 .....4. *P. (A.) khukri* n.sp.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank my friend Carolus Holzschuh (Vienna) for his help in collecting many insects during this joint expedition to the Himalayas. I am also greatly indebted to Adrian Pont (Goring, U.K.) and Robert E. Roughley (Winnipeg, Canada) for reading and correcting the English of my manuscript.

Armin Coray, Scientific Illustrator, made the illustrations. This was possible through a grant from the Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Investigation (application no. 31-9089-87).

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